

SPRING 2002
PHYSICS 315 – COMBAT AVIATION PHYSICS
WELCOME LETTER

Welcome to Physics 315! I'll bet that many of you were sure that you'd never take another physics course in your life. I appreciate your confidence in my ability to make this course enjoyable, interesting, and extremely applicable to your future careers as military professionals. In this course we will cover a number of important scientific concepts and principles that will allow us to better describe, model, and understand the physical concepts behind the pointy-end of the Air Force's spear. Whether you go on to become a pilot or not, many of the concepts we will discuss have relevance to important problems and issues you will encounter throughout your Air Force career. I believe you will see and appreciate many of the complex factors that go into getting the bombs on target and the missiles on an enemy aircraft differently as a result of taking this course.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. **Stay on top of your reading and homework assignments!** As with any course, grades earned in Physics 315 will probably reflect the amount of time you spend going over the material. Stay on top of the assignments, as the assigned topics will build on one another. If you get behind, you will have trouble understanding the current material because you are still unsure about the previous material. So please, **stay ahead!** That means reading the assigned material **BEFORE** coming to class and **turning in all assignments on time.**
2. Second, take responsibility for your understanding and performance in this course. It is easy to fall into the trap of asking an instructor or fellow student for help before you really try to wrestle your way through the trouble spots. Often, a homework problem can seem easy when the instructor does it for you, and because it then seems easy, you may be tempted to assume you could do a similar problem on your own. Until you actually roll up your sleeves and do these problems by yourself, it is likely that you will not truly understand them. Try problems on your own first!
3. Finally, if you find that, despite your efforts, you are having trouble, seek extra instruction! Don't spend endless hours spinning your wheels over a particular problem. While it is important to give a good effort on each problem, there comes a point when additional time spent is probably not going to get you anywhere. Before this happens, please get help! Past experience has shown that students who seek help from other students and EI from me quite often recover from their difficulties and go on to do well in the course. On the other hand, those who do not get help from other students or me are more likely to have serious problems.

Be sure to read and then comply with the material presented in the administrative notes which follow this letter. If you have any questions about the notes, ask me for further clarification. I will be working hard to make this course interesting, challenging, useful, and even fun for you. Work hard with me, and we will all benefit. Good luck!

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